

#### **401 KAR 5:055. Scope and applicability of the KPDES Program.**

RELATES TO: KRS 224.01-010, 224.01-070, 224.01-400, 224.70-100, 224.70-120, 224.99-010, 33 C.F.R. 153, 40 C.F.R. 122, 123.44, 144, 300, 401.15, 33 U.S.C. 1251 -1387, 42 U.S.C. 300f – 300j, EO 2008-507, 2008-531

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 224.10-100, 224.10-110, 224.16-050, 224.18-100, 224.70-100, 40 C.F.R. 122.21,300, 33 U.S.C. 1251 -1387

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 224.10-100 authorizes the cabinet to require for persons discharging into the waters of the Commonwealth, by administrative regulation, technological levels of treatment and effluent limitations. KRS 224.16-050(1) authorizes the cabinet to issue federal permits pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1342(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 - 1387 subject to the conditions imposed in 33 U.S.C. 1342(b) and (d). KRS 224.16-050(1) requires that any exemptions granted in the issuance of these permits shall be pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1311, 1312, and 1326(a). KRS 224.16-050(4) requires that the cabinet shall not impose under any permit issued pursuant to this administrative regulation an effluent limitation, monitoring requirement or other condition that is more stringent than the effluent limitation, monitoring requirement or other condition that would have been applicable under the federal regulation if the permit was issued by the federal government. EO 2008-507 and 2008-531, effective June 16, 2008, abolish the Environmental Protection Cabinet and establish the new Energy and Environment Cabinet. This administrative regulation establishes the scope and applicability of the KPDES program and identifies categories of point sources required to obtain a KPDES permit, requirements pertaining to exclusions and prohibitions, requirements for general permits, requirements for disposal into wells and into publicly-owned treatment works (POTW), and requirements for disposal by land application.

Section 1. Definitions. Definitions established in [40 C.F.R. 122.2](#) shall apply for the interpretation of federal regulations that are cited within this administrative regulation.

Section 2. Applicability of the KPDES Requirements. (1) A KPDES permit shall be required to discharge pollutants from a point source into waters of the Commonwealth.

(2) Compliance with the KPDES program requirements shall constitute compliance with the operational permit requirements of [401 KAR 5:005](#).

(3) Failure to obtain a KPDES permit shall not relieve a discharger whose discharge is subject to the KPDES program from complying with the applicable performance standards of the KPDES program, 401 KAR 5:050 through 5:080.

Section 3. Point Source Categories Requiring a KPDES Permit. (1) The following categories of point sources shall require a KPDES permit to discharge:

- (a) A point source discharge identified in [40 C.F.R. 122](#), effective July 1, 2008;
- (b) A concentrated animal feeding operation;
- (c) A concentrated aquatic animal production facility;
- (d) A discharge into aquaculture projects;
- (e) A discharge from separate storm sewers; and
- (f) A silviculture point source.

(2) A facility covered by a general permit issued pursuant to Section 8 of this administrative regulation, may be required to obtain an individual permit based on contributions to water pollution.

(3) If an individual permit is required pursuant to this section, except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the cabinet shall notify the discharger of that decision and the reasons for it.

(a) The discharger shall apply for a permit pursuant to [401 KAR 5:060](#) within sixty (60) days of notice, unless an extension is requested by the applicant.

(b) The question whether the permit determination was proper shall remain open for consideration during the public comment period pursuant to [401 KAR 5:075](#) and in a subsequent hearing pursuant to [KRS 224.10-420\(2\)](#).

(4)(a) Prior to a determination that an individual permit shall be required for a storm water discharge, the cabinet may require the discharger to submit information regarding the nature of the discharge as established in [40 C.F.R. 122.21\(e\)](#), effective July 1, 2008, if:

1. The provisions of the general permit are not sufficient to protect human health and the environment; or

2. The discharger has a history of noncompliance with the provisions of the general permit.

(b) If an individual permit is required pursuant to this section, the cabinet shall notify the discharger of that decision and the reasons for it.

(c) The discharger shall apply for a KPDES permit within sixty (60) days of notice, unless an extension is requested by the applicant.

(d) The question whether the initial determination was proper shall remain open for consideration during the public comment period pursuant to [401 KAR 5:075](#) and in a subsequent hearing pursuant to [KRS 224.10-420\(2\)](#).

Section 4. Exclusions. An exclusion from the requirement to obtain a KPDES permit shall be:

(1) A discharge identified in [40 C.F.R. 122.3](#), effective July 1, 2008, or [KRS 224.16-050\(6\)](#);

(2) An authorization by permit or by rule that is prepared to assure that underground injection will not endanger drinking water supplies, pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act, [42 U.S.C. 300f-300j](#), and that are issued under a state or federal Underground Injection Control program;

(3) An underground injection control well that is permitted pursuant to [40 C.F.R. 144](#) if those permits are protective of public health and welfare and prevent the pollution of ground and surface waters; or

(4) A discharge that is not regulated by the U.S. EPA under the Clean Water Act Section 402, [33 U.S.C. 1342](#).

Section 5. Prohibitions. The cabinet shall not issue a KPDES permit if:

(1) The conditions of the permit would violate the provisions of KRS Chapter 224;

(2) The regional administrator has objected to issuance of the permit in writing pursuant to the procedures specified in [40 C.F.R. 123.44](#), effective July 1, 2008;

(3) The conditions of the permit do not comply with the water quality standards established in [401 KAR 10:031](#); or

(4) A prohibition is established in [40 C.F.R. 122.4](#), effective July 1, 2008.

Section 6. Variance Requests from Technology-based Effluent Limitations. (1) A non-POTW may request a variance from otherwise applicable effluent limitations as established in [40 C.F.R. 122.21\(m\)](#), effective July 1, 2008.

(2) A non-POTW may request an expedited variance as established in [40 C.F.R. 122.21\(o\)](#), effective July 1, 2008.

Section 7. Effect of a Permit. The effect of a KPDES permit shall be as established in [40 C.F.R. 122.5](#), effective July 1, 2008.

Section 8. A General permit shall be issued as established in [40 C.F.R. 122.28](#), effective July 1, 2008.

Section 9. Disposal of Pollutants into Underground Injection Control Wells, into Publicly Owned Treatment Works, or by Land Application. (1) An adjustment of effluent limitations related to disposal of pollutants into wells, into publicly owned treatment works, or by land application shall be as established in [40 C.F.R. 122.50](#), effective July 1, 2008.

(2) The cabinet may issue permits to control the disposal of pollutants into wells if necessary to protect the public health and welfare and to prevent the pollution of ground and surface waters.

Section 10. Variances from Technology-Based Treatment Requirements Available to KPDES Applicants. Consistent with [KRS 224.16-050](#), the variance provisions in this section and in [401 KAR 5:080](#), Sections 2 and 4, establish those variances from technology-based requirements available to KPDES applicants.

(1) Economic capability. The cabinet, with the concurrence of U.S. EPA, may modify BAT requirements for a point source if the owner or operator demonstrates that the variance satisfies the requirements of [33 U.S.C. 1311\(c\)](#).

(2) Environmental considerations. The cabinet, with the concurrence of U.S. EPA, may modify the BAT requirement for a point source that does not discharge toxic pollutants identified in [40 C.F.R. 401.15](#), effective July 1, 2008, conventional pollutants, or the thermal component of that discharge, if the owner or operator demonstrates that the modification is consistent with the conditions established in [33 U.S.C. 1311\(g\)](#).

(3) Innovative technology. The cabinet shall establish a date for complying with the deadline for achieving BAT not later than two (2) years after the date for compliance with the effluent limitation would otherwise be applicable, if the innovative technology is as established in [33 U.S.C. 1311\(k\)](#).

(4) Thermal pollution. An alternative effluent limitation for the thermal component of a discharge shall be as established in [33 U.S.C. 1326\(a\)](#).

Section 11. Substitutions, Exceptions, and Additions to Cited Federal Regulations. (1) "Waters of the Commonwealth" shall be substituted for "Waters of the United States" in the federal regulations cited in Sections 1 through 10 of this administrative regulation.

(2) "Cabinet" shall be substituted for "Director" if the authority to administer the federal regulations cited in Sections 1 through 10 of this administrative regulation has been delegated to the cabinet.

(3) "KPDES" shall be substituted for "NPDES" if the cabinet has been delegated authority to implement federal regulations cited in Sections 1 through 10 of this administrative regulation.

(4) "Standard metropolitan statistical areas as defined by the University of Louisville Urban Studies Center, consistent with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget" shall be substituted for "Standard metropolitan statistical areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget" in [40 C.F.R. 122.28\(a\)\(1\)\(vi\)](#).

(5) "Urbanized areas as designated by the University of Louisville Urban Studies Center consistent with the U.S. Bureau of the Census" shall be substituted for "Urbanized areas as designated by the Bureau of the Census according to criteria in 30 FR 15202, effective May 1, 1974" in [40 C.F.R. 122.28 \(a\)\(1\)\(vi\)](#). (9 Ky.R. 854; Am. 1103; 10 Ky.R. 9; eff. 6-1-83; 11 Ky.R. 740; 1028; eff. 1-7-85; 12 Ky.R. 511; eff. 12-10-85; 13 Ky.R. 241; eff. 9-4-86; 20 Ky.R. 3231; 21 Ky.R. 364; eff. 8-24-94; 29 Ky.R. 1031; 1545; eff. 12-18-02; TAm eff. 8-9-2007; 35 Ky.R. 2520; 36 Ky.R. 364; 575; eff. 9-25-2009.)